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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

23 FEB 1993

THE SECRETARY - ROOM 222

IN REPLY REFER TO:

7330-7/1700A3

RECEIVED

Honorable Michael A. Andrews

2.

We are, of course, sensitive to the concerns of both users of private land mobile radio spectrum and R/C hobbyists. We will, therefore, take into

Congressional

DUE OBC: 2-18-93

PLEASE MAKE 2 EXTRA COPIES OF INCOMING, ATTACHMENTS,
AND REPLY FOR DOCKET FILE, ROOM 222.

CONGRESSIONAL CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING SYSTEM
02/10/93

LETTER REPORT

CONTROL NO.	DATE RECEIVED	DATE OF CORRESP	DATE DUE	DATE DUE OLA(857)
9300522	02/10/93	02/05/93	02/23/93	

TITLE	MEMBERS NAME	REPLY FOR SIG OF
Congressman	Michael Andrews	BC

CONSTITUENT'S NAME	SUBJECT
several	inq. comments on PR Docket 92-235

REF TO	REF TO	REF TO	REF TO
PRE/kmm 2-10-93			

DATE	DATE	DATE	DATE
02/10/93			

REMARKS: Respond to the attention of Lance Etcheverry.

RECEIVED
FEB 10 5 26 PM '93
PRIVATE

House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

PKB
92-235
522

DATE: February 5, 1993

TO: Ms. Linda Townsend Solheim
Director, Legislative Affairs
Federal Communications Commission

The enclosed communication is submitted for your consideration. I would appreciate your advising me of agency initiatives in this matter and returning my constituent's letter to me with your comments.

Again, thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Andrews

Michael A. Andrews, M.C.
25th District, Texas

ADDRESS RETURN TO:

Name: Lance Etcheverry

Title: Legislative Aide

THE HONORABLE REPRESENTATIVE MICHAEL R. ANDREWS
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

JANUARY 15, 1993
SUBJECT: MODEL AIRPLANE
RADIO CONTROL SAFETY

CONGRESSMAN MICHAEL R. ANDREWS,

THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION HAS ISSUED A NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULE MAKING (NPRM- PR DOCKET 92-235). IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS RULE WILL HAVE A PROFOUND ADVERSE EFFECT ON MODEL RADIO CONTROL SAFETY. DEVELOPED BY THE MOBILE LAND SERVICE, THE PROPOSAL CREATES A MASSIVE FREQUENCY RESTRUCTURING- THE FIRST OF ITS TYPE IN 60 YEARS.

WHILE THE 455 PAGE DOCUMENT ADDRESSES FREQUENCY USE IN ANOTHER SERVICE, (PART 88 OF THE CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS) IT WILL ALSO AFFECT PART 95 WHICH ADDRESSES THE MODEL RADIO CONTROL FREQUENCIES. BASICALLY THE RESTRUCTURING INSERTS TWO NEW FREQUENCIES BETWEEN THE RADIO CONTROL (RC) AND EXISTING COMMERCIAL FREQUENCIES. THIS MEANS THAT WE WILL HAVE USERS, HIGHER IN POWER, TRANSMITTING ONLY 2.5 KHz AWAY FROM MANY OF THE MODEL 72 Mhz AND 75 Mhz FREQUENCIES AS WE ARE ALREADY HAVING SOME PROBLEMS WITH

January 27, 1993

The Honorable Mike Andrews
515 Rusk, Suite 12102
Houston, Texas 77002

FEB 02 1993

Dear Mr. Andrews

Building and operating radio controlled model aircraft has been my hobby for several years now. I participate in a very active club that operates a flying field within a public recreational facility.

I am very concerned about proposed rules that are currently under consideration by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). The proceeding is PR Docket 92-235. If adopted, the new rules will greatly reduce the usability of radio frequencies currently assigned for model use and increase the risk of accidents and attendant liability for controlling model airplanes.

Our radio control frequencies are in the 72 - 76 MHz band. This band is primarily used for private land mobile dispatch operations. However, our radio control frequencies in this band are far enough apart from the land mobile frequencies that we have been able to share the band without either use interfering with the other.

The FCC proposes to create more land mobile frequencies by splitting them into narrower bandwidths and rearranging the band plan. As a result, many land mobile frequencies will move closer to the radio control frequencies and cause interference to radio control operations. I am told that of the 50 frequencies that are presently available for radio control of model airplanes, only 19 frequencies will be left if these new rules are adopted. This will affect all 5 of the transmitters I am currently using.

When we fly our model airplanes under radio control, we go to great lengths to assure the safety of both operators and bystanders and the protection of property. Many of our safety precautions involve the careful coordination and use of the radio control frequencies. If the number of usable frequencies is diminished as proposed by the FCC, the remaining frequencies will become congested and the margin of safety will be greatly reduced. Since these frequencies will be used by mobile units, our ability to prevent observed interference will be inhibited, allowing an aircraft to fly out of control due to nearby passing traffic.

Please understand that many model airplanes have wing spans of up to 10 feet or more and weigh as much as 30 to 40 pounds. Normal airspeeds are in the 60 - 70 mph range. The models themselves are expensive to build; but more

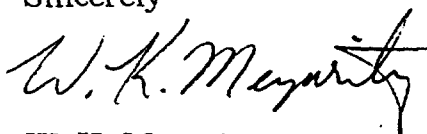
to the point, they are capable of causing property damage, serious injury, or even death if radio interference causes the operator to lose control of the craft. We often fly our models at organized events and contests where hundreds of people participate. We need the use of our full complement of radio frequencies in order to assure a safe flying environment.

I have recently completed installation of a large trunked 900 MHz communication system for my employer. This system was implemented in accordance with FCC regulations for the new 900 MHz bandwidth. I can say from personal experience that one of the main reasons justifying our new system was the need for clear communications. We had been using 12 different frequencies in different bandwidths and were experiencing interference from non-licensed users. If the FCC would police the use of the existing frequencies, and pursue non-license use, there would be no need for such a massive frequency restructuring, the first of its type in 60 years.

I do not think it is wise of the FCC to seek to improve the operating conditions of land mobile radio users at the expense of radio control modelers. The FCC may not think we are as important as business users of radios, but we have a considerable investment in our models and in our radio equipment. We spend considerable time and effort and utilize existing technology to build model aircraft that are both safe and reliable to use. The hobby provides many hours of enjoyment to thousands of people like myself and contributes to the advancement and development of the commercial aviation industry.

Please help me continue the safe enjoyment of my pastime by not allowing the FCC to carry out its proposals for the 72 -76 Mhz band.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "W. K. Megarity". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

W. K. Megarity